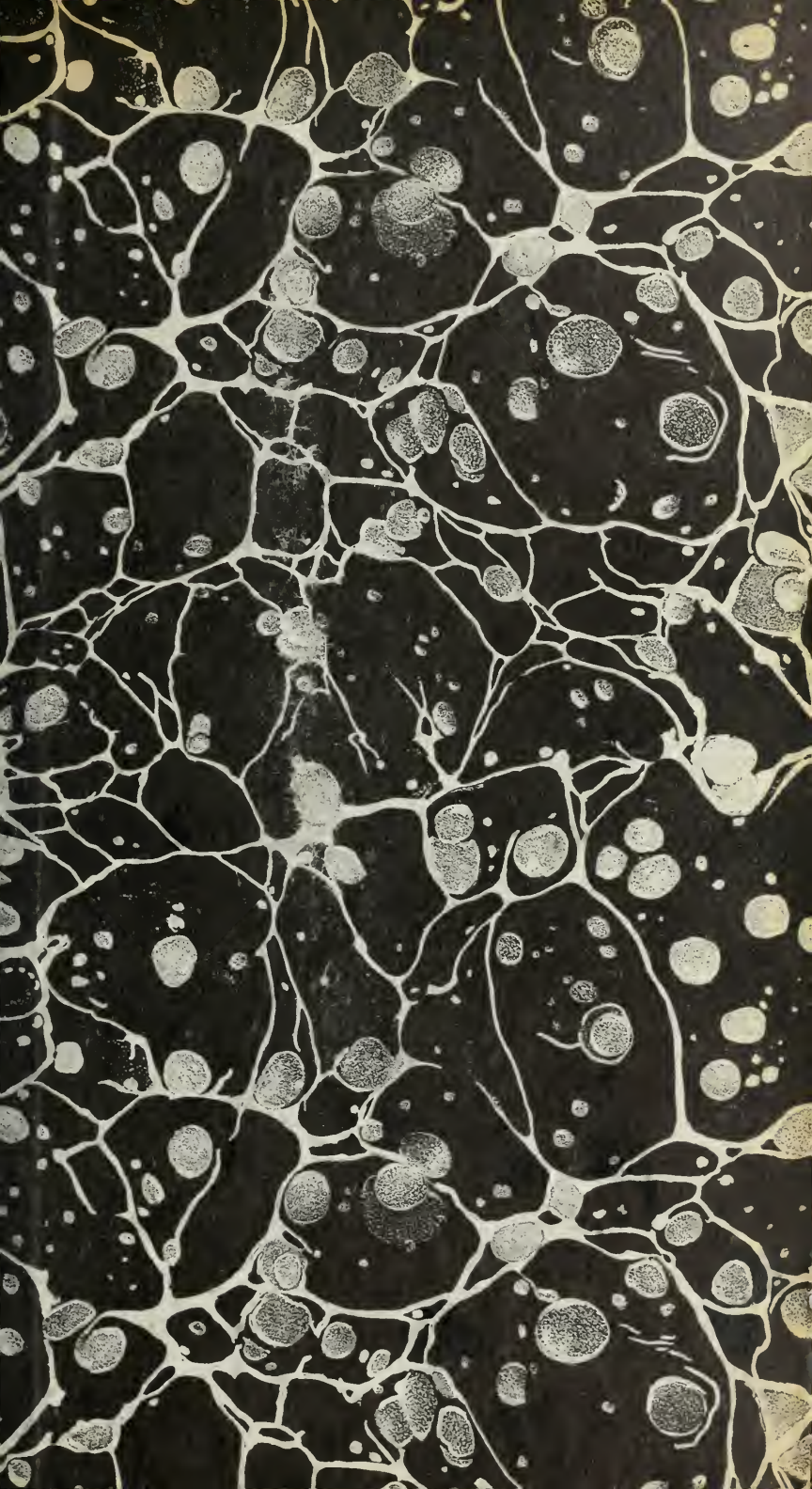


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A

LETTER

TO THE

SECRET COMMITTEE,

&c.

[Price One Shilling.]

A

LETTER

TO THE

Secret Committee.

CONTAINING,

Certain Extraordinary PRACTICES of the late M———r, intended to have been laid before them in a private Manner, and now ſubmitted to their Publick Conſideration.

I hope the Parliament of Great Britain *will always be able to pull any Miniſter from behind the* Throne; *for if it ſhould not, That very Inability would be a Diſſolution of our Conſtitution.*

Speech of Q. FABIUS MAXIMUS.

LONDON:

Printed for S. DIAL, in *Covent-Garden*, and ſold at the Pamphlet-Shops of *London* and *Weſtminſter*.

MDCCXLII.

3.030.383

AC911.1742.L477

A

LETTER

TO THE

SECRET COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

NO Man without being the moſt harden'd Profligate that ever enter'd the Walls of *Newgate*, can ſtoop to be the dirty Agent of another, without ſometimes feeling a Repugnance, in ſpite of all the many Arguments he will bring in favour of his Conduct. His Honeſty will often deteſt what his Intereſt makes it neceſſary to comply with: His Reaſon and Pride may

ſometimes tempt him to renounce the mean Agency he is engaged in : But then again the many illuſtrious Examples of Subſerviency he may continually have before his Eyes, will be apt to ſtifle the Voice of Reaſon, and leave his Pride under as mortifying a State as ever. If a Perſon is capable of reflecting thus in ſecret Dependency, by how much more pungent muſt it be to him to proclaim to the whole World the infamous Part he has been made to act! How diſagreeable ſoever this Taſk muſt naturally be, I have impoſed it upon myſelf; and give me Leave to inform you, Gentlemen, that as the only Attonement in my Power for having been guilty of a very criminal Proſtitution, I had determin'd with myſelf to lay the following Facts before you in Perſon, as ſoon as ſuch Application cou'd be made with Safety ; but as the untoward Fate of the Bill for indemnifying Thoſe who might be as deſirous as myſelf of affording Lights into your Enquiry, has fruſtrated my honeſt Intentions in that Particular, as well as deny'd you the only Means I apprehend that could render your Endeavours ſucceſsful, I am obliged to ſubmit them to your Public Conſideration.

It

It has always been held dangerous to accuſe a favourite Miniſter while he is at the Zenith of his Power and Intereſt at Court; and though the Publick has been gratifyed with the Removal of one, it is manifeſt by all Circumſtances ſince, that he has not loſt his Power and Influence, but that they are eſſentially the ſame.

As therefore, Gentlemen, I have to do with a Perſon ſtill mighty in Friends and Power, fruitful in Evaſions, and who, by the very Nature of the Facts I muſt accuſe him of, has it greatly in his Power to turn the Tables upon me, either by an abſolute Denial of any ſuch Tranſactions as are here repreſented, or by charging me as the ſole Author of them, the Converſations I had with him concerning them being always very private, in his own Cloſet, and without Witneſſes: As moreover he may even produce Letters from me under my own Hand, which he cauſed me to write to him for the carrying on his Deſigns; and as he conſequently may make thoſe very Letters ſo many ſpecious Evidences againſt me, it ſurely behoves me to be extremely cautious, and I hope it will not be thought unreaſonable if I conceal my Name, while I untie my Tongue;

at the ſame time I declare myſelf ready to appear before you, and atteſt every thing contain'd in the ſubſequent Pages in the ſolemneſt Manner, if call'd upon, and there be yet a Poſſibility of my doing it with Safety; for otherwiſe, as I ſaid before, to uſe the Words of a noble Lord, His Power would infallibly be employed in blaſting the Credit, or preventing the Effect of my Evidence, and probably in making the Puniſhment fall, not upon the guilty Miniſter, but upon the brave and honeſt Accuſer; as in the Caſe of the Earl of *Briſtol* in King *Charles* the Firſt's Time, who brought an Accuſation againſt the Duke of *Buckingham*, which produced another of High Treaſon againſt himſelf.

I am very ſenſible however, Genlemen, that the exhibiting ſuch extraordinary Particulars in this anonymous Manner will take greatly from their Weight: I can eaſily foreſee the Exceptions they will be expoſed to: Prejudice will operate as uſual; nor will Malice be idle. Thoſe who may happen to think them of ſufficient Moment to deſerve Attention, and who are candid enough to aſſign the true Reaſon for ſuch a Concealment, will, or I miſtake, lament the Neceſſity of it, and be

be apt to think it ſerves at leaſt to ſhew, in ſome meaſure, the Expediency of ſuch a Bill as has had the Misfortune to miſcarry with the Lords, and thereby given a freſh Diſappointment to the Expectations of the Public; but thoſe whoſe Intereſt it is to blacken the Attempt will not be wanting to throw on it all the odious Colours their Wit or their Malice can ſuggeſt. Methinks I hear them cry, Who is this Accuſer in the Dark? Where is his Proof? Why does not he appear? I ſhall admire the Sagacity of theſe Queriſts juſt as much as I would the Courage of him who firſt robs a Man of his Arms and then puts him to Defiance. And I hereby give them this publick Notice, that as often as they ſhall urge the above Interrogatories, in Imitation of *Shakeſpeare*, I have taught a Starling to anſwer in their Ears — *The Indemnifying Bill.* ———

There are ſome well-meaning People, again, who may think it highly improbable, that the Perſon levelled at ſhould be capable of deſcending to ſuch little Arts as they will find him ſtand charged with; but I muſt entreat all ſuch political Scepticks to recollect what ſhallow Plots and mean Artifices of Miniſters abound in the Hiſtories

Hiſtories of all Nations: I muſt entreat them to conſider the Character of the Perſon in Queſtion when he has any favourite Point to gain: I muſt beg to remind them of his notable *Penny Poſt Plot* ſome Years ago: I muſt likewiſe deſire them to weigh all Circumſtances with the Views the Author propoſed to himſelf in theſe crafty Devices; and then I am perſuaded they will entertain a more favourable Opinion, and be inclin'd to think them, as I know them to be, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth.

But not to take up any more of your Time, Gentlemen, with Matter of Introduction, I do hereby accuſe the late M———r of being the Contriver, firſt Mover, Abetter, and Cheriſher of the following Intrigues, which may not improperly be ranged under theſe Titles:

(Viz.)

The Laſt Will and Teſtament Plot,

The Gin Plot,

And

The Patriot's Plot.

Whereby

Whereby he impoſed in the groſſeſt and moſt audacious Manner on his ſacred M———y, and the Nation in general, and on a foreign Lady of Diſtinction in particular. And in as much as I acknowledge myſelf to have been acceſſary thereto; I do moſt humbly aſk their Pardons reſpectively for the Share I had in carrying on ſuch deſteſtable Practices.

An Acquaintance of ſome Years with the late M——r, and the advantageous Opinion he has frequently been pleaſed to expreſs of my Underſtanding, having wrought me by degrees into conſiderable Credit with him, he call'd me one Day into his Cloſet, ſaying, he had had a Deſire for a good while of engaging me in his Service, and was now very glad of having an Opportunity of ſhewing the Conſideration he had for me. He then open'd himſelf with a Freedom and Confidence that both flatter'd and ſurpriz'd me: Complain'd of the Virulence of his Enemies; ſet forth their various Attempts to ruin him with the K——; ſaid, that tho' he was a good and gracious, and as ſteady a Prince as ever ſat on the Throne, yet that their wicked Arts might one Day make dangerous Impreſſions on him, and therefore in Policy it

it behov'd him to countermine them in all he cou'd. He then proceeded to tell me he had ſingled me out as a proper Perſon on many accounts for the carrying on a Buſineſs he wanted to have tranſacted, and added, that I ſhould find my Account in it, if I behaved myſelf to his Satisfaction, and agreeable to the Idea he had form'd of my Attachment, Integrity and Diſcretion. I immediately aſſured him with a viſible Tranſport, that I ſhould think myſelf highly honour'd with any Commands he ſhould think fit to lay upon me, and would do my beſt to merit his Approbation. On this, having made me draw my Chair near him, he gave me the following Informations previous to what I call

The laſt Will and Teſtament Plot.

He told me a Packet would be left for me the next Day at the Houſe of a Perſon he nam'd, with whom it was known I had Buſineſs, and where Meſſages and Letters were frequently left for me. In this Packet, ſaid he, you will find a Manuſcript, and an Anonymous Letter for yourſelf, both which I wou'd have you immediately on the Reception bring me to *Hampton Court*, encloſed with a Letter from

from yourſelf to me, declaring by what means you came to be in Poſſeſſion of thoſe Papers, and that you thought it your Duty to lay them before me, accompany'd with what other Expreſſions you judge proper.

I preſently found I was to pay a blind Obedience to his Commands, without being let into the Views he had in them; having therefore my neceſſary Inſtructions, I took my leave; and as I was doing ſo, he laid his Hand on mine with the greateſt Familiarity, and calling me by my Name, You ſee, ſaid he, I am going to make Tryal of your Fidelity, be true to me, and you ſhall always find me a Friend. I was going to repeat my Aſſeverations, but he had rung his Bell, and a Servant came in to let him know ſome other Perſon he expected waited to ſpeak with him, ſo I retir'd immediately.

This Interval was fill'd up with all thoſe little Tranſports, which naturally ariſe from the Thoughts of being diſtinguiſh'd by a great Man. I confeſs my Vanity got the better of me on this Occaſion, and I indulg'd myſelf into a kind of Rapture at the pleaſing Proſpect that offer'd

of making my Fortune. I was reſolv'd to improve this lucky Opportunity at all Events, and complimented myſelf with being the happieſt Mortal breathing.

In ſuch kind of Diſpoſitions I was when I receiv'd the Papers in Queſtion, which were conveyed to me from the place mention'd by the M——r. I was infinitely ſurpris'd when I came to look over the Manuſcript, which took up two Sheets of Paper, wrote very cloſe, and was entitled,

The laſt Will and Teſtament of a deceaſed Sultan.

As I did not imagine, at that time, I ſhou'd ever have Occaſion to make any publick mention of this Tranſaction, I will not pretend to ſay it is in my Power to give the very Words of the Will, neither can it be expected from me as I did not take a Copy; but to the beſt of my Memory it conſiſted of ſeveral Items, importing, as I think, that the ſublime *Muſſuiman*, Teſtator, diſinherited his only Son, and bequeath'd all his hereditary Dominions to a Neighbouring Prince, who had married his Daughter; and juſtified this ſeemingly cruel and unnatural Proceeding by

by Reaſons too intricate for my Comprehenſion, as well as too copious for my Memory to recapitulate.——Several Legacies were bequeath'd, the moſt conſiderable of which was to a favourite Woman of the *Seraglio* and her Daughter, with other large Sums for Public Uſes.

This was the Subſtance of the whole, which was witneſs'd by the *Muſti*, and the *Viſier*, and was wrote with an affected Air of Myſterioufneſs, yet, as if contrary to the Author's Intention, ſo as to give room for an Explanation.

Here my Surprize return'd with double Force: I knew not well what to think:—It was natural for me to enquire what cou'd be the Policy had induc'd the M——r to this——It muſt be for ſome important End, I was certain.——As I found I was not wholly truſted, I recollected what he had ſaid concerning the Attempts of his Enemies to ruin him with the K——, his Apprehenſions on the Impreſſions they might make, and his reſolving to countermine them:——From all which, as yet I cou'd gather little, only as it had been rumour'd about this time that the K—— had been of late leſs ſatisfied

with him than he had been, and that it was as much as all the Policy and Influence of her M—— could do to hinder the Diſlike he had to him from breaking out, it came into my Mind that this might probably be intended as a means to revenge himſelf upon his Enemies by fathering it upon them; and at the ſame time re-ingratiate himſelf with the K——, by giving a Proof of his Sagacity and Diligence in diſcovering and ſuppreſſing ſuch audacious Inſinuations.

Full of theſe Reflections, inherent to the inquiſitive Nature of the Soul, I went to *Hampton Court*, and having wrote a Letter to the M——r ſuch as he had deſired I ſhou'd, I made it up in one Packet with the Papers, and ſent it from the *Toy* by a Waiter. I had not been there above half an Hour before one of his Footmen came to me and ſaid, his Maſter was juſt gone to the K——, but he would not have me go, for he ſhou'd ſend for me as ſoon as he came back.

During my Stay here I was full of Thought:——To be told the M——r was gone to the K—— juſt on the arrival of my Packet was a Circumſtance that

renewed

renewed my Enquiry, and gave me, as I imagin'd, ſome Light into his Deſign, and I could not help concluding that the Papers were intended to be ſhewn.

I waited as near as I can gueſs about two Hours before the ſame Man return'd, and ſaid his Maſter was now at leiſure and wou'd ſee me. I then follow'd him to the P——ce, and was carried into an Apartment belonging to the M——r. He received me with a diſtance vaſtly different from that Freedom which I expected; aſk'd me Queſtions which very much aſtoniſh'd me; and as he had given me no previous warning of them, convinc'd me, when I afterwards reflected on them, that he had a great Idea of my Preſence of Mind at leaſt. Whether there was any Perſon in hearing, or whether this ſtrange Behaviour was only to make Trial of my Capacity, I know not; but he aſk'd me in a pretty ſtern, and louder Voice than uſual, if I could not gueſs who was the Author of that infamous Manuſcript I had juſt ſent him? What time I receiv'd it? Whether I had imparted the Contents to any one beſides himſelf? and if I wou'd make Oath it came into my Hands in the manner I pretended? All which

which ſeveral Interrogatories, odd as they appeared to me, I anſwer'd in a proper manner; and he then order'd me to attend him at his Houſe in *A——n* Street the *Thurſday* following, where he ſaid he would talk further to me.

I returned home full of Anxieties and Fears at this unexpected Treatment; for I perceiv'd now to what Dangers I had expos'd myſelf in thus taking upon me the whole of an Affair which it ſo much behov'd the M———r not to be ſuſpected of having any ſhare in, and which he took ſo much Precaution to ſeem totally ignorant of. A great Damp was now put upon my late Tranſports, and I almoſt began to repent M———l Favour: To ſuch Alternatives are Mankind ſubject.

I waited on him, however, according to his Commands on *Thurſday*, and was conducted into his back Parlour, where I found him perfectly free and good-humour'd, and I had a long Conference with him, though ſeveral Perſons of Diſtinction were all the Time expecting to ſpeak with him in the next Room. On my expreſſing ſome Amazement at the Queſtions he had put to me at *Hampton Court*, he

fell

fell a laughing, and only anſwer'd, without aſſigning any Reaſon for having done ſo, that he imagin'd it would have that Effect upon me; but that I had behaved extremely right. At the ſame time he made me a Preſent of a Bank-Bill of conſiderable Value, telling me, when he put it into my Hand, that it was not his Nature to be ungrateful for any Services done him; and added, he would not have me alarm'd if I ſhould happen to be taken up, for I might depend on his Protection; but that he wou'd, however, endeavour to prevent it.

With this I took my Leave, under freſh Alarms, which it was neither in the Power of his Promiſe, nor the Bill he had given me to remove. I was now convinced, that the Packet had been ſhewn; that our Converſation had been overheard, and that ſome conſiderable Perſon, in the Haſtineſs of his Nature, might have inſiſted on my being taken up, and which the M———r was obliged ſeemingly to give into.

Some Days after, I obſerv'd in the public Prints, that a certain Right Honourable Gentleman, an eminent Patriot, was ſtruck

out

out of his M——y's Privy C——l, in a pretty contemptuous Manner. This Incident confirm'd me a good deal in my former Conjectures as to the M———r's Views, and as I imagin'd they had been ſucceſsful, it contributed not a little to eaſe me of my Fears. I was ſent for the ſame Day to the M———r, who told me he wanted to ſee me only to make me eaſy; for that I had nothing to apprehend on the Score of being taken up, it being now reſolv'd otherwiſe.

Thus ends the whole of this ſecret Tranſaction, which I ſhall leave to others to comment more largely upon, and proceed to a freſh miniſterial Device, the Meaning of which is leſs *abſtruſe*, as the Effects have been more *notorious*, and to which I give the Name of

The Gin Plot.

In the Beginning of *September*, 1736, the late M———r ſent for me to *Chelſea*, and, after ſome previous Diſcourſe, ſaid, he had Occaſion for my Pen once more. I anſwer'd, that not only my Pen, but my Head and Heart were at his Service, with other Compliments of the like Nature;

Nature; on which he told me, he would have me write a certain Number of Circular Letters to ſome of the moſt eminent Diſtillers; in which it would be proper I ſhould aggravate as much as poſſible the Hardſhips the Act commencing at *Michaelmas* would lay them under; and then deſire each reſpectively to repair on the Evening of the 28th Inſtant to one or other of ſeveral noted Houſes in what Parts of the Town I thought moſt proper, where I was to ſay they would be met by a great many of their Brethren, and others, to conſult how to redreſs their common Grievance. None of theſe Letters were to have any Name ſubſcribed, but to be wrote with the Spirit and Manner of a Perſon of Conſequence, and to be ſent by the Penny-poſt.

This Commiſſion I took upon me to exécute, and having informed myſelf of the Names and Places of Abode of all thoſe who were look'd upon as the moſt conſiderable in the Trade, I think, I wrote to ſixty four or ſixty five in Number. The Letters were all of the ſame Date, contain'd much the ſame Expreſ-

 ſions,

ſions, and were diſpatch'd on the ſame Day.

After this was over, the M———r deſired I would ſend to thoſe Houſes I had mentioned in the Letters, and order that the largeſt Rooms ſhould be kept for particular Companies, which they were to be told would meet on *Michaelmas*-Eve.

This Injunction I alſo comply'd with, and as I apprehended no Danger in what I was about, I perform'd it with the more Alacrity. When I had done all, as I thought, that was intended to be requir'd of me, I waited on him to acquaint him his Commands were obey'd: He receiv'd me with a ſmiling Countenance, thank'd me for having been ſo punctual and expeditious; but ſaid, there was yet one Thing more remaining to be done. Do you think, ſaid he, that any of the People, thus wrote to, are well enough affected to the Government to make an Information of what they have received? I was a little ſurprized at this Queſtion, but anſwer'd, as it was natural for me to do, that it was impoſſible for me to form any Conjecture on that Score, as I was wholly unacquainted with any of the Perſons; but among ſuch

a

a Number it was poſſible there might be ſome that would not make a Secret of it. That we can have no Aſſurance of, you know,—— ſaid he again. Here I paus'd, and, beginning to ſee more clearly into his Drift, told him I knew a Perſon who I imagined might be able to bring about what I perceived his Honour aim'd at, and if he pleaſed, I would bring him: But he ſhook his Head at my mentioning it, and told me that would be improper. He muſt not know, ſaid he, that I have any Hand in the Buſineſs; but I would have you talk to him, and if you find him fit to be truſted, you may communicate it to him as an Invention of your own to get Money from the Government. After which I came away, and went directly to the Houſe of the Perſon we had been talking of.

This was one, who, by being concerned in Mortgages, and other Ways of Money-lending, I knew had a very large Acquaintance: That he was likewiſe Maſter of a great deal of Cunning without ſeeming to have any, and by what I had obſerved of him, would be ready enough to come into any thing that had the Proſpect of Advantage: All which Qualifi-

cations made me think him a proper Perſon for the Affair in hand.

I found him at home, and having ſounded him with ſome Artifice, and perceived by the Anſwers he gave me, that I had not been deceived in my Opinion of him, I related to him all I had done, and all that remain'd to do, for the compleating a Project, which, I had told him, was merely the Child of my own Brain; and added, that if we could order it ſo, as to make the *ſham Plot* appear a *real* one, I knew the M———r would give a large Reward for the Diſcovery.

He ſwallow'd the Bait, and believing what I had ſaid was practicable, found a thouſand Arguments to juſtify the Impoſition he was going to engage in. He maintain'd that every thing that was attended with Profit, provided it came within the Letter of the Law, was both honeſt and wiſe; and that no body wanted Money but thoſe who had neither Courage nor Invention. The great Folks know this well enough, ſaid he, and what they call refin'd Policy is nothing more than a Variety of Shifts and Tricks to get their Ends. Don't all the K——s in the World

World contrive how to cheat one another of their Dominions? What are all their Conqueſts but ſo many Robberies? What are their Treaties but Artifices to deceive and circumvent? In what, pray, conſiſts the Wiſdom of a M———r of State, but in Plots to drain the People of their Money, elude their juſt Complaints, preſerve the Favour of his Prince, and at laſt go off with Impunity? What are the temporizings of the C——y but Rounds in the Ladder of Perferment? What are all the Wranglings of the L——rs but a meer Sham and Contrivance to raiſe themſelves Fortunes out of Fools Eſtate? What is *Phyſic* but a Combination between D——r and A———y to cheat the Patient out of his Subſtance, and, it may be, his Life?——In every Rank, in every Profeſſion, Stratagems are neceſſary, and thoſe who don't know how to make uſe of them are no better than the Slaves of thoſe that do, and muſt expect to be miſerable and deſpis'd.

This Sermon on the Laudableneſs of Fraud made me laugh very heartily, and the Warmth with which it was deliver'd, convinc'd me that it proceeded more from the Soul than ſome others I had heard

on

on Tenets vaſtly different. As he was a Man who naturally loved talking, and was on a Theme he was now more than ordinary full of, he expatiated very largely on it, and repeated many things twenty times over, which was one Reaſon that I ſo well remember this Converſation. He run on ſo long that I was obliged to interrupt him by reminding him that Expedition was now as neceſſary as Invention, and if he cou'd find a proper Perſon to be our Inſtrument, there was no time to be loſt, becauſe the Information of the pretended Plot ought to be made before the Commencement of the Act, which wanted now no more than four Days.

On this he told me he was acquainted with ſeveral Diſtillers, and alſo with one *A———r*, a Man that kept a Shop near St. *James*'s, and ſold ſpirituous Liquors by Retail; which latter, he ſaid, he took to be the moſt likely of any for our Purpoſe, becauſe he had a great Influence over him. He added alſo, that he was a plain, robuſt Fellow, of no Underſtanding, and might eaſily be brought to believe any thing. I join'd in his Opinion, that a fitter Perſon could not be found, and we had no occaſion to ſeek farther. I then ſaid that I would

wold conſider of a Letter, and deſired he would dine with me the next Day, and ſettle every thing.

Early in the Morning I went to the M———r, and acquainted him how far I had proceeded. He was very well pleaſed to find the Perſon I had mention'd to him came ſo readily into the Project, and ſaid, the Character of the other gave a very good Handle for writing to him, ſo bid me prepare a Letter immediately, importing in Subſtance that a Deſign was carrying on to ſet aſide the Act, and to invite him, this *A———r*, to come and bring what Friends he could, about eleven at Night on *Michaelmas* Eve, to *Solomon*'s Porch, a Place ſo call'd near the Weſt Gate of *Weſtminſter Abbey*, where he wou'd be join'd by others that wou'd ſurprize him. I was left at my Liberty to give what Reaſons I thought proper for writing to him in ſuch a manner, as well as to enhance the Grievances occaſion'd by the Act, and with theſe Inſtructions I came home.

I had but juſt finiſh'd the Letter when my Friend arrived: He had conceiv'd ſuch high Expectations of the Succeſs of my

my Plot, that he came ſomewhat before the Hour I had appointed, and was over-joy'd to find I continued in the ſame Mind.

We then began to conſider how to proceed: The Certainty that this Letter was deliver'd into *A*———*r*'s own Hand, and that he ſhou'd receive it while my Agent was with him, were the two main Points on which all the reſt depended; I therefore reſolv'd to make ſure of the one by truſting to no Body and delivering it myſelf; and as to the other, we agreed to go together to ſome Houſe in *A*———*r*'s Neighbourhood, where I ſhould be left till he went to ſee if the Man was at home, of which I might be certain if he ſtay'd, otherwiſe he was to return immediately.

This was the beſt Method we could think on; ſo it was accordingly put in Execution: That ſame Afternoon I muffled myſelf up in my Cloak, and after waiting ſome time, finding he did not come back, went to *A*———*r*'s Shop. They were drinking together in a back Room, but on my deſiring to ſpeak with *A*——*r* he was call'd out to me, and the other follow'd

followed him, as undeſignedly and ſaw me give him the Letter, and heard me ſay as I was doing ſo, this comes from ſome very good Friends of yours;----you are deſired to conſider it very attentively; I ſaid no more, nor waited for his Anſwer,-------the Man look'd amaz'd, and I was glad to be gone for fear of Accidents.

The ſolemn manner in which I ſpoke, together with the Contents, of the Letter, quite confounded *A*-------*r*; he ſcratch d his Head, bent his Brows, ſtood with his Mouth half open, but had not the Power to ſpeak.

The Alteration that appeared in his Countenance was a good Opportunity for my Agent to aſk if that Letter had brought him any ill News? He heſitated a little before he anſwered, but at laſt gave him the Letter to read, ſaying he did not know what to make of it: Make of it! cry'd the other, as ſoon as he had look'd it over, why this is downright Treaſon; ----here's a Plot againſt the State carrying on, and they want you to have a Hand in it;-------if this Letter ſhould be found about you, you are undone, I wou'd

not be in your Condition for more than I'll ſpeak of;——'tis not ſafe to keep it a Moment. Then I'll burn it this Minute, ſaid *A———r*, and was going to do ſo, but my Friend, beginning to think he had over-acted his Part, held his Hand, and told him that would be dangerous too; how do you know, ſaid he, but the very Perſon who delivered it to you, may give an Information of your receiving it, and then your ſaying you had burn'd it wou'd not be ſufficient to clear you? No, no, you muſt go and ſhew it to——naming the M———r, and then you have nothing to fear. Poor *A——r*, as the other told me, was ſo terribly frighted, that he was glad to do any thing to ſhew his Innocence; but ſaid, he did not know how to go about ſuch a Buſineſs, nor which way to get to the Speech of the M———r. My Agent having now brought him to this Point thought he might make a double Advantage if he went firſt alone to the M———r, ſo took the other at his word, and ſaid, it was a very difficult thing, indeed, to get Admittance; but he would go himſelf and diſcover the Plot; for he had been accuſtom'd to ſpeak to great People, and knew how to behave to them, and then he might go afterward and

produce

produce the Letter. *A———r* approv'd very well of his going, but wou'd by no means be prevail'd upon to keep the Letter: My Friend told me he cou'd not forbear laughing at the Terror his firſt Words had thrown him into, and we were both very merry together at the Recital he made me, and the Deſcription of his Eagerneſs to thruſt the Letter into his Hand, ſaying he ſhou'd not ſleep a wink all Night if it were in the Houſe.

Late as it was when we ſeparated, I did not go to Bed till I had wrote the M——r an Account of what had happened, and that the Perſon I had employ'd would attend him the next Morning with the Diſcovery.

Orders therefore were given that ſuch a Perſon as I had deſcribed to him ſhou'd be admitted, tho' with ſome ſeeming Difficulty, to take away all Suſpicion of his being appriz'd of his coming; he was ſhew'd at laſt into a Parlor, where, having been made to wait a conſiderable time, the M———r came to him. My Friend accoſted him with a very formal Speech, which he had ſtudied for that Purpoſe: He told him that it being his good For-

tune to be preſent where a very treaſonable Letter had been deliver'd, he had, as he thought it his Duty, prevail'd on the Perſon who receiv'd it to give him leave to lay it before his Honour, that the eminent Danger which threatned the Peace of the Kingdom might by his Wiſdom be averted,——and a great deal more ſuch Stuff, at which the M———r, as he told me afterward, cou'd ſcarce forbear laughing. He receiv'd it, however, very gravely, and having read it ſaid, he found indeed there was a moſt execrable Plot carrying on,——that the Man who receiv'd this Letter had done well not to conceal it; but he muſt come and give what other Information he was able; my Agent reply'd, that it was in order to bring him, that he had taken the liberty of waiting on his Honour: That indeed it was highly neceſſary the Man ſhould be examin'd; and his Honour ſhewed his great Zeal and Care for the public Tranquility to dive as much as poſſible into the bottom of this treaſonable Conſpiracy; but that there wou'd be no occaſion to ſend any Warrant, for he know the Perſon wou'd come: To this the M———r gave a Nod of Aſſent, and he went directly to Mr. *A*———*r*, who was not quite ſatisfied with the Honour of

of waiting on this Stateſman, but as it muſt be ſo, he accompanied him.

The M———r began to Queſtion him with a ſtern and magiſterial Air, and it was well for *A———r* that he was perfectly innocent, for had the leaſt Guilt been even in his Thoughts his Fears had certainly betray'd it. He proteſted he cou'd not imagine why ſuch a Letter ſhou'd be ſent to him, for he never troubled himſelf with State Affairs in his Life. But you have been one of thoſe, I ſuppoſe, ſaid the M———r, that have murmur'd againſt the Act, and talk'd among your Companions of the Grievances that would attend it? Not I, as I hope to be ſav'd, Sir, cry'd he, I never ſpoke of it in my Life; and when I heard 'em railing and talking, as you know People will, I always told 'em they wou'd only make bad worſe, as the ſaying is. 'Tis ſtrange then, ſaid the M———r, that they ſhou'd ſeem to depend ſo much upon you:——Come, come, you muſt have complain'd to ſome Body——let me know to whom, and by that means we may be able to gueſs at the Letter-writer,——On this he made a thouſand Aſſervations of his Innocence in Thought, Word and Deed; but the

M——r

M———r would not for a great while ſeem to believe that he could be ignorant of every thing, and aſked him what ſort of Perſon brought the Letter, and if he thought he could know him again. He anſwered that he did not believe he ſhould, and was ſure he had never ſeen him before.

But I will not enter into a Detail of any further Particulars of this mock Examination, which to have the greater Appearance of being a real one the M——r prolong'd a great while. At laſt he diſmiſs'd them, after they had ſet down their Names and Places of Abode, that they might be ſent to in caſe there ſhould be any Occaſion for their Oaths.

A———r, to his great Joy, heard no more of this Buſineſs, but he that was under me, the Conductor of it, was ſent to in three or four Days; on which he went, not a little elated at finding himſelf a Man of ſo much Conſequence; a Place at Court, or Penſion for Life, and the perpetual Confidence of the M———r, were the leaſt Gratuities he expected for the Service he had done the State.

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The M———r aſked him ſome farther Queſtions, bid him be ready, and take Care that *A———r* ſhould be ſo too, if an Order ſhould be ſent for them to appear before the C——l, and with this gave him a Bank Bill as a Recompence for his Loyalty, telling him that if it hereafter fell in his Way to hear of any Practices againſt the G————t he would not be ungrateful for the Intelligence.

Indeed there was ſomething pleaſant enough in this State-Farce, the Perſon whom I had employ'd delighted himſelf with having made *A———r* his Tool, and engroſſed the whole Advantage of this Diſcovery to himſelf: I was a little diverted to think how I had impoſed on him, and the M———r no doubt laugh-ed in his Sleeve not only at me but at the whole Nation.

This Letter with another, which it ſeems one of the Diſtillers had carried to Juſtice *D——l*, was laid before the Q-——n and C———l, on which Lord *Sh———n* was ſent for in great haſte, and Orders were given for placing the Guards.

Accor-

Accordingly, as every one will remember, Guards were poſted in ſeveral Quarters of the Town; particularly they were drawn up in *Covent-Garden*, where they remain'd under Arms the whole Night; and likewiſe in *Weſtminſter*, where they did Duty in *St. Margaret*'s Church-yard for three whole Nights and Days ſucceſſively: A Detachment was ſent into the City, and Centinels were poſted at the Doors of the late Sir *Joſeph Jekyll* and Sir *Robert Walpole*; and all this to prevent, as was pretended, any Diſturbance from the Populace upon the Score of the *Gin* Act, which took place at *Michaelmas*. A Report was induſtriouſly ſpread, that not only the whole Body of the Diſtillers, but likewiſe ſeveral others, whoſe Trades and Vocations were affected by the ſaid Act, had enter'd into a Combination to raiſe a Tumult under the whimſical Pretence of going in a mock Proceſſion to bury *Gin*, in *Solomon's-Porch* before the Weſt-Gate of the *Abbey*. A great Alarm run thro' the whole Town on this ridiculous Story, of which thoſe Letters were the ſole Foundation.

This I ſhould not have been quite ſo ſoon informed of, happening to live in a very

very retir'd Place, if the Perſon whom I had employ'd as my Agent had not come to me in a great Hurry, and told me that every body was in a Conſternation; that Soldiers were parading in all the great Streets; that nothing was talk'd of but a moſt terrible Plot; and that the good Women were afraid their Huſbands ſhould ſtir out of their Houſes for fear of Miſchief. ——————You have a rare Head-piece, ſaid he to me, to have invented all this; and let me tell you, I think, I have done my Part as well. —————— You ſee they all believe it —————— the Government is as ſure there was a Riſing intended, as we are that there was not —————— Why, if this Plot had been real now, I ſhould have deſerved a Statue for the Diſcovery —————— the M———r can't do leſs in juſtice than give me a handſome Poſt —————— none of your little paltry Employments where a Man is turn'd out at pleaſure ——————No, no, I'll accept of nothing that is not a ſure Dependance for Life, cry'd he, and I ſhall not ſcruple to tell him ſo, as ſoon as Things are a little quiet. I gave into this Humour of his, till by much talking of it, he became as certain ſuch a thing would happen, as if he had already actually receiv'd a Grant.

Having a little Curioſity to ſee how far his Deſcription agreed with Truth, I took a Walk with him in the Evening, and found indeed that he had exaggerated nothing. I muſt own, that when I ſaw the Guards poſted in the Manner abovemention'd, the Pariſh-Officers all on Duty, both Civil and Military Power oppoſed againſt a Shadow, and the poor People every where ſtanding at their Doors, and looking with Amazement on each other, as, wondering what could occaſion ſuch extraordinary Preparations, I felt a little Shock within myſelf for having lent a Hand toward propagating ſo groundleſs an Alarm, the Conſequences of which it was impoſſible to anſwer for, and might have been ſuch as I now tremble to think on.

I then began to ſee, or imagin'd that I ſaw, into the Views of the M———r, and could not help thinking that this pretended Plot was to ſerve as a Plea for keeping up a Standing-Army, for enforcing the Riot-Act, for enhancing the Article of Secret-Service, for making the Body of Diſtillers odious, and thro' their Sides the whole Body of the People. Thoſe who have repreſented the M———r as being no Conjurer will after this retract their

their Opinion, and acknowledge that like a true Conjurer he raiſed Devils and was paid for laying them.

On my next waiting on him he ſeem'd in an extream good Humour, was pleaſed to tell me he was highly ſatisfied with my Conduct in this Affair, as well as the Perſons I had made Choice of to be my Inſtruments. He was even ſo free as to repeat to me a good deal of what they ſaid to him, and on my coming away made me a very conſiderable Preſent.

I heard afterwards that my Friend was in good earneſt when he ſpoke of ſoliciting for a Place; but the M———r put him off with fair Words, which kept Expectation alive a-while; but he grew weary at laſt, and gave over haunting the Levee; though to this Hour he talks of having met with Ingratitude from the G————t for ſome ſignal Service he had done; but is ſilent as to what Nature that Service was of.

This is all I have to ſay on this Tranſaction, I now come to the third and laſt Affair I was ever employ'd in by the

M———r, and which I think may be diſtinguiſh'd by the Title of

The Patriot's Plot.

Being one Day alone with the M———r, he aſk'd me if I was not acquainted with one *L*———*?* On my anſwering in the Affirmative, he again aſk'd, what Opinion I had of him? To which I reply'd, that I took him for a Man of a good Share of Senſe and Honeſty. But he is a *Jacobite*, is he not, cry'd the M———r? I ſaid, I knew nothing of that. Yes, yes, ſaid he, I'm convinced of it. I hear he is privately ſupported by the Faction —— meaning the Gentlemen in the Oppoſition; for by that Name he always diſtinguiſh'd them to me. I told him, I did not believe he was, for that I had often heard him inveigh againſt the great Avarice of that Party; and whatever he might have been, his Patriot Zeal ſeem'd now very much abated. Here I remember the M———r laughed heartily, and made ſome pleaſant Reflections on the Prevalency of Self-intereſt over all Ranks and Diſpoſitions. But growing more ſerious, the Man, ſaid he, might be uſeful to me, if I could be aſſured of his Sincerity. I told him, I could anſwer for no body

body but myſelf, though I believed he might be truſted if he once engaged in any thing. On this he was ſilent for a Minute or two, and then ſaid, he would not venture it; but that he would communicate the Buſineſs to me, and that I only ſhou'd be ſeen in it to him, and employ him as I had done the other Perſon in the Diſtillers Affair.

This Mark of his Truſt in me was not ſo flattering as perhaps he imagined, being truly deſirous of avoiding all ſuch Employments as he had before found for me; but which way could I refuſe with Safety? Neceſſity therefore obliged me to ſpeak in a manner widely diſtant from my Heart, and alſo to keep my Looks as much as poſſible from giving the Lye to my Tongue: I knew very well that no Man ſaw more clearly into the Thoughts of thoſe whom it was his Intereſt to read, and therefore it behoved me to be upon my Guard; but I had Prejudice for my Friend: He was firmly prepoſſeſs'd of my Attachment, and took not that Pains to obſerve me as I perfectly remember he did on giving me his firſt Orders, and received what Profeſſions I made him with an Air which ſhewed he doubted not the Sincerity

rity of them, and ſoon proceeded to give me thoſe Inſtructions he thought neceſſary at that time.

The firſt thing you have to do, ſaid he, is to ſee Mr. *L*———, and to introduce as naturally as you can ſome Diſcourſe of me, and then by degrees inform him that you have ſomething in your Head which will infallibly raiſe a good Sum of Money; but that you cannot carry it on alone, and if you find him ready to engage with you, you may let me know it.

This was going to work in the dark, but I undertook and ventur'd upon it. Accordingly I ſounded Mr. *L*———, who tho' he complained of ſome Patriots, was yet no Friend of the M———r, and in the courſe of our Converſation very much ridiculed his Meaſures. I join'd in his Opinion, and railed at every Step had been taken ſince his A———n, as I had Licence from himſelf to do, whenever I found it would be of ſervice in the Affairs I was to carry on. Then I proceeded to ſay there would be no Crime in impoſing on a Man who was ſo great an Enemy to his Country, and that if I had an able and truſty Friend I was ſure that I had a

way

way to ſqueeze out ſome part of the Money he, the M———r, had robb'd the Public of. Mr. *L*——— cried out preſently, it would be but an act of Juſtice; and if I thought him qualified he would gladly join in any thing of that kind, tho' he were ſure not to get a Shilling by it himſelf. Well, ſaid I, you are the fitteſt Perſon in the World: I have not determined yet how it ſhall be managed; but ſince I find you are willing to come into it, I will conſider of it, and let you know. He then gave me many Aſſurances that nothing ſhould tempt him to betray the leaſt Tittle of what I ſhould impart to him, and expreſt a great deal of Impatience to be told ſomething of my Deſign. I anſwered, it was to no purpoſe to mention a part, but in a Day or two he ſhould be acquainted with the whole.

I no ſooner parted with him than I went directly to *Ch-l--a*, but the M———r was not at home. The next Morning I ſaw him in Town, and having repeated the Converſation I had with Mr. *L*———, he ſeem'd very well pleaſed, and when I told him of the Impatience he expreſt, I believe, ſaid he with a Smile, that if the Truth were known, your Curioſity

oſity is little inferior to his; but you ſhall both of you be gratified. As for myſelf, anſwered I, it is ſufficient for me to know I am obeying your Honour's Commands, and preſume not to enquire farther than you are pleaſed to think neceſſary I ſhould know for the Execution of them; but between him and me it is quite different, and he might ſcruple to engage in a thing, the Nature and End of which was hid from him. All the End, ſaid the M——r, that he muſt ever know, I think you have told him, is to impoſe upon me, and get Money. As for you, I ſhall conceal nothing of what I propoſe by it from you.

You muſt know, continued he, that I ſuſpect a certain Foreign Lady has been tampered with, or if ſhe has not already, that the Faction may have Thoughts of getting her into their Intereſt, which it is mine to prevent if poſſible: The Scheme I have laid will go a great way toward diſcovering how far ſhe is, or may be gained. In order therefore to the carrying on this Buſineſs, you are to enter into an imaginary anonymous Correſpondence as between the Faction and Mr. *L*——, requiring of him to deliver certain Letters to a Lady a little way out of Town, and bring

bring her Anſwers which they will ſend to him for.

This wa the Subſtance of what the M———rs delivered; and I then deſired to know what was to be wrote to Madame ———? To which he replied, that the Letter to her muſt be as from ſome of the Heads of the Faction, tho' without any Name any more than thoſe to Mr. *L*———: That the firſt muſt contain only ſome Inſinuations that her Power and Intereſt was much leſs conſiderable than others of her Character had enjoyed in former Reigns, or than what ſhe deſerved and had Reaſon to expect: That ſhe ought to impute this want of public Influence meerly to the little good-will of the M———r, through his Jealouſy of her Power with the K——. Paint out my Injuſtice to her Merit in the ſtrongeſt Colours you can, ſaid he ſmiling, you have my leave to abuſe me. Then continued he, you may add, that there are Gentlemen who are impatient to ſee her in a more exalted Station, as well as to rectify many other Miſtakes of a more public Nature——— that Projects are already formed for that purpoſe, and that they will hereafter explain themſelves more fully. As for the others

to be ſent her, the Reception of the firſt muſt determine. He told me alſo it muſt be wrote in *French*, and deſired I would ſhew it him before I put it into Mr. *L*———'s Hands.

As I did not comprehend the Meaning of all this, I aſked, in caſe the Lady ſent any Anſwer, in what manner it was to be diſpoſed of?——Why to be given to me, cry'd he: Is it not to Fathom her Intentions I do all this? If ſhe writes, *L*——— muſt come and betray all this feign'd Correſpondence to me.———How is it elſe that you pretend to impoſe upon me? Are not the Letters wrote to him deſigned only to give the thing the greater Air of Truth to me?———Are you ſo dull of Apprehenſion as not to perceive that his Buſineſs is to make me believe that the Faction have thought fit to employ him without wholly confiding in him; and that by bringing thoſe Letters which he pretends to be ſent to him, he is to ſuppoſe I am deceived by an Artifice of your contriving?

I begg'd his Pardon for having given him the Trouble of conducting me thro' this Labyrinth, which ought to have been needleſs,

needleſs, had I reflected on the laſt Will and Teſtament Plot.

Being now fully acquainted with what I was to do, I took my leave, not a little aſtoniſh'd that a Perſon in his Station could deſcend to ſuch low Practices, which ſeemed to me more befitting the Chicanry of a Stock-jobber than the Policy of a Prime M———r.

Mr. *L*——— was tranſported when I related to him the whole of my Contrivance, as I call'd it, and proteſted that whatever Reward ſhould be given for this pretended Treachery it would be leſs ſatisfactory to him than the pleaſing Conſciouſneſs of having over-reached a Man, who by his Artifices had over-reached a whole Nation.

After having made him perfectly comprehend how the whole Affair was to be conducted, we ſet down to prepare the Letters: Thoſe to himſelf was eaſily diſpatched, but thoſe to the Lady required a good deal of Thought, ſo I ſaid it ſhould be my Evening's Employment, and appointed him to come the next Day, when I promiſed it ſhould be ready.

I was obliged to put him off in this manner, becauſe I was under a neceſſity of ſhewing it firſt to the M———r. As I had not been much accuſtomed to write in *French*, tho' I underſtand the Language tolerably well, it coſt me ſome Pains; but I acccompliſhed it at laſt, ſo as not to be diſapproved by the M———r, to whom I carried it by ſeven o'Clock the next Morning, and he bid me ſend Mr. *L*——— with it that ſame Afternoon to *K*————*n*.

His Orders were punctually obeyed: Mr. *L*—— indeed had not the Honour of ſeeing Madame ————, but he delivered the Letter to her favourite Woman, who aſſur'd him it was the ſame thing, and that her Lady ſhould have it before ſhe ſlept.

The M———r was ſatisfied when I told him of it, and ſaid, he knew that Woman was the Cabinet of her Secrets. I then aſked when I was to write again, and in what manner? To which he anſwer'd, that he would wait ſome Days to ſee if ſhe took any Notice of it to him, and if ſhe did not, he would ſend for me to give me further Inſtructions.

Accord-

Accordingly I was ſent for the fifth Day. Nothing, he ſaid, had been mentioned by Madame———— of the Letter, tho' he had ſeen her twice ſince ſhe received it, ſo was now convinced ſhe deſigned to make a Secret of it to him, and he would have me ſend again immediately, and be as preſſing as I could for an Anſwer.

The modelling this Letter took me up the beſt part of the Day, but he having deſired I would come again and ſhew it him, as ſoon as finiſh'd, I went to *C---l--a* in the Evening: I was oblig'd to wait ſome time before I ſaw him, he being laid down to Sleep. Being told on his awaking that I was there, he ſent for me into the ſecond Parlour, where he read the Letter, made no Objection to any part of it, and order'd me to ſend Mr. *L*—— the next Day to *K*———*n*, and if he brought an Anſwer to let him come to him forthwith, and make the ſuppos'd Diſcovery; but if the Lady ſent none, I was to tell him the Thing was not quite ripe, and we muſt think of ſomething to heighten it. And ſo we muſt, added he, for if ſhe does not write, my Purpoſes will not be fully anſwered.

As

As ſoon as I got home, late as it was, I ſent for Mr. *L*———, gave him the Letter, and told him that it was my Opinion, if we could be ſo fortunate as to get an Anſwer from her, the betraying ſuch a Correſpondence would be worth any Money from the M——r. He ſaid he knew it would; we ſupp'd together and drank to the good Succeſs of our Project.

He fail'd not to go to *K*——*n* the next Day, and delivered the Letter to the ſame Hand as before, who after carrying it to her Lady came to him again, ſat ſome time with him, talk'd in the moſt free and obliging manner, and had a certain Satisfaction in her Countenance, which gave him room to believe the Errand he came upon was not diſpleaſing to her Lady. While they were together, he heard a great ruſtling of Silks in the next Room; he ſaw no Body, but by the look of the Woman, fancy'd Madame ——— might have Curioſity enough to ſee the Perſon who had brought the Letters, and had come to ſome Place where ſhe could do ſo without being perceiv'd by him. The Gentlewoman was afterwards call'd in, but ſoon return'd, and with the ſame Affability and Chearfulneſs as before told him

him, her Lady would conſider on the Letters, and deſired he would come again in three or four Days. When Mr. *L*---- acquainted me with this I told him, that I thought we had Reaſon to be ſatisfied with this Meſſage; for her Ladyſhip's taking Time to conſider looked as if ſhe intended to write, ſince if ſhe had wholly rejected the Propoſals ſhe would have teſtified it at once.

After he had left me I went to the M———r, who ſeem'd a little thoughtful when I related to him what Mr. *L*—— had told me. 'Tis plain, ſaid he, ſhe is divided and uncertain which Party to take;—ſo far I am ſatisfied; but *L*——'s going again will ſhew us what ſhe means. He added, that he would not have him exceed the Time her Woman appointed.

Mr. *L*—— accordingly went, and return'd with a Chearfulneſs in his Countenance which before he ſpoke aſſured me that his Embaſſy had been now ſucceſsful. He preſently pulled a Letter out of his Pocket, which had been deliver'd to him by the Lady's Confidante, and told me, that he had been treated by her with greater

greater Complaiſance, if poſſible, than before.

This Account, as well as the former one he had given me of his Reception, made me imagine Madame ———— was not in Reality averſe to liſtening to Propoſals of the Nature I had offer'd, and tho' Curioſity is no great Ingredient in my Compoſition, I felt ſome Emotions of it for the Contents of this Letter; but as they were not to be gratified, my Reaſon eaſily ſuppreſſed them. Mr. *L*—— ſaid, he wiſh'd the Gentlemen in the Oppoſition had indeed entruſted him with a Buſineſs of this kind, and that it had been a real inſtead of a fictitious Correſpondence. He added, that he wonder'd they did not in good earneſt attempt engaging Madame ——— in their Intereſt; which he imagin'd would not have been an improbable Scheme. I was entirely of his Mind, and had Cauſe to be ſo when I reflected on the Doubts the M———r himſelf had expreſs'd to me on that Head, but that I was oblig'd to keep to myſelf. We had ſome farther Converſation how far ſuch Overtures from the Patriots might be practicable, as well as of the publick Utility they might have been; but as it relates only

nly to our private Opinions, and is of no onſequence to the Matter in hand, I ſhall forbear an impertinent Detail of it, but make what Haſte I can to the Cataſtrophe of this Affair.

We agreed on the Concluſion that it was neceſſary for Mr. *L*—— to write to the M———r, to acquaint him that ſomething of a very extraordinary Nature having fallen in his Way, he thought proper to diſcloſe it to him, and to that End would wait on him the next Day, if he was pleaſed to give Orders for his Admittance.

This he ſent by a Porter, and went himſelf at the Time he had mention'd in it; taking with him the *K*———*n* Letter, and all thoſe we had directed to himſelf, as his Vouchers in what Manner he came to be engaged in this Correſpondence. All which the M———r took, and kept for the Uſe he had to make of them.

Notwithſtanding the Impatience, which it appears by all I have recited, the M——r had to diſcover how far Madame ——— was to be wrought upon to his Prejudice,

he had the Policy to treat Mr. *L*——, and the Intelligence he brought him, with a Shew of the utmoſt Indifference; and when he had broke open, and read that Lady's Letter, only ſaid coldly, This is a Thing of no Conſequence: I am not now to be inform'd that the Faction are always reſtleſs, and aiming at Things out of their Reach. On this Mr. *L*—— was ſo much piqued, that he anſwer'd with a great deal of Spirit, That doubtleſs what they aim'd at was *now* out of their Reach; but how far it might have been ſo, ſaid he, if I had not betray'd them, no body can anſwer. — I have nevertheleſs done what I thought my Duty, and ſhould be ſorry to think your Honour leſſen'd the Importance of the Thing, only to leſſen the Merit of the Service. No, replied the M———r, I am obliged to you, however, and as you were to have ſome Recompence I ſuppoſe, if you had kept the Letter till they had ſent, you ſhall not be a Loſer by having brought it to me; and I expect you will never be concerned in any thing againſt the Government. With theſe Words Mr. *L*—— ſaid he put a Bank Bill into his Hand; for which having made his Compliments, he ſoon after took his Leave, and came to

me

me not well ſatisfied with the M———r's Behaviour.

The Preſent he had made him was not indeed equivalent to the Service he had done him, had the Tranſaction he diſcover'd been a real one, and as he muſt ſeem to think it ſo he was obliged to have Recourſe to that refin'd Diſſimulation of affecting to contemn the enervate Attempt of his Enemies, in order to avoid gratifying Mr. *L*------ as he might have expected, had he appear'd to think the Diſcovery of any Moment.

Mr. *L*------ could not keep himſelf from ſaying ſome bitter Things, which I was obliged to join in. Neither could I avoid giving into, and forwarding a Project which he now form'd in his Turn of getting a ſecond Favour from the M———r. It was this: Another Letter to be wrote to himſelf, as from the ſame Quarter with the former ones; intimating, that they had cauſed him to be watched, and that he had been ſeen to go into the M———r's Houſe; that they had all the Reaſon in the World to believe he had betray'd them, and that they would be revenged. Some Days after

the Date of this pretended Menace, he gave himſelf a ſlight Wound on the Head, and went again to the M———r, ſhewing both the Letter and the Wound; the latter of which he ſaid he had received in an Encounter with Perſons unknown: On this the M———r gave him another Bill of the ſame Value with the former.

But I muſt here beg Leave to take Notice, that before he put this Stratagem in Execution, I went to the M———r and previouſly acquainted him with the Deſign Mr. *L*—— had upon his Generoſity. At which he laughed exceſſively and cried, I find he has ſome Invention.———— Well ---- well ----- let him come ----- the poor Man ſhall not hurt himſelf for nothing.

I had now an Opportunity of ſaying, I hoped the *K*--------*n* Letter had anſwered the Purpoſe his Honour expected from it, and he not only frankly told me, that it had, but alſo unboſom'd himſelf at this Time more than I had ever known him do before.

I cannot ſay indeed he entered into any Particulars, or told me in plain Terms

the

the Uſe he had made of this pretended Diſcovery ; but by many Expreſſions he let fall, it was eaſy for me to gather, that to fathom Madame ———'s Sentiments was not the only View he had in it, tho' as it certainly gave him an Opportunity of eſtabliſhing himſelf with that Lady, and in a manner rendering it her Intereſt to be on his Side, it was no immaterial Point all Things conſider'd. ———He talk'd of the Blow was now given to the Oppoſition ——— of the K----'s Rage ; that his M——— would never forgive the Arrogance of interfering with his private Concerns ; and all this with an Air of Triumph and Self-ſufficiency, as if he knew himſelf too ſecurely rivetted in the R——l Favour for any Inſinuations whatever to remove him.

When I came home and had leiſure to reflect on what the M———r, in the exultings of his Heart had uttered, it ſeem'd plain to me that this fictitious Correſpondence had been laid before the K——, and that it was on this account his M —— imagined he had ſo juſt a Reaſon for Reſentment.——Good God! thought I then, if it has been ſo, what a Precipice have I eſcaped?— Might no his M ——, thinking himſelf affronted in ſo tender a Point,

Point, have inſiſted on an Examination into this Matter, and in order to it, have order'd the Perſon who brought thoſe Letters to be ſeiz'd; and then what muſt have been the Event? I neither believ'd, or wiſh'd Mr. *L*——— if put to his Oath, would have maintain'd the Fallacy, and on the Queſtions which would naturally have been aſk'd him, could not without Perjury have avoided naming me as the Author and Contriver of thoſe Letters——What then muſt have become of me? I ſhould have had no way of atteſting my Innocence but by accuſing the M———r; which Accuſation, as I had no Proofs, would but perhaps have aggravated my ſeeming Guilt, and conſequently render'd my Sentence more ſevere; if on the contrary I had been ſilent, and ſubmitted to take the whole upon myſelf, tho' I doubt not but I might have depended on the Favour of the M———r for rendering my Puniſhment as gentle, and my Miſfortune as ſupportable as poſſible; could any thing in his, or the united Power of all Mankind attone for what I muſt have ſuffer'd in my Character? Theſe Conſiderations were of ſuch weight with me that I made a final Reſolution that on no Temptations or Perſwaſions whatever I would again run into ſuch Hazards.

I have

I have now, Gentlemen, gone thro' the whole of the pernicious Practices I propoſed to lay before you; and how trifling ſoever the means may appear, I cannot help being of Opinion, that they ſerved to bring about very important Ends. I can truly ſay, that in committing theſe Things to Paper I have bluſhed and hated myſelf by turns; and I take Heaven to Witneſs, I have not to the beſt of my Belief deviated a ſingle tittle from the Truth. As I appear to you, Gentlemen, in the light of an Accuſer, and not as a Declaimer, I have rather choſe to keep as cloſe as poſſible to Matters of Fact than pretend to diſplay in Oratorial Colours either the enormous Guilt of theſe Contrivances, or what is due to the Author of them. That is a Taſk I muſt leave to the Eloquence of others, and ſhall not further treſpaſs on your Moments than juſt for Method's ſake to give a ſummary Recapitulation of the Views of the whole, which appear to me to have been calculated for theſe dangerous Ends, *viz.*

For weakning the Conſtitution by wicked Inventions to ſhew the neceſſity of keeping up a ſtanding Force: For rivetting himſelf in the R——l Confidence, or rather for awing his M——— into favour by

by the moſt daring Inſinuations, which is a new Species of T——n: For creating a Jealouſy in the K—— of his People: For rendering his beſt Subjects obnoxious to him: For magnifying his own *Zeal*; and finally for multiplying the Articles of *Secret Service*.

After this, Gentlemen, I cannot conclude better than by repeating to you my great Readineſs, as well as aſſuring you of my ardent Wiſhes to be enabled to appear in *Perſon* before you, that I may ſupport thoſe Things, *viva voce*, which at preſent I can only do by anonymous Accuſation.

I have now nothing more to add, than that may the Wiſdom of him who giveth Light to the Dark, proſper your Enquiries; and may a Love of Juſtice influence the Minds of all who have it in their Power to make ſuch Diſcoveries as may give that Satisfaction, which a long oppreſſed, miſrepreſented, and abuſed People have all Reaſon to hope and expect, which is the humble and ſincere Wiſh of,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient Servant.

FINIS.

